

Control Board of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and carried out by the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has identified a number of alternate fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, electricity and methanol as a blend with gasoline (petrol), for use by automobiles.

(c) The following steps have been taken/proposed for use of alternate fuels:

(i) The use of compressed natural Gas (CNG), an eco-friendly fuel, for use of petrol-driven vehicles is under implementation in the cities of Mumbai, Delhi and Surat. In Delhi, CNG is being dispensed through four retail outlets and four on-line stations. About 1000 vehicles in Delhi have been fitted with CNG kits and cylinders to operate on both petrol and CNG. In Mumbai, more than 5000 taxis have been converted to use CNG. The price of CNG is lower than that of petrol.

(ii) Trial projects are on for use of other alternate fuels such as propane for three-wheeler autorickshaws and use of methanol as a blend with gasoline and diesel.

(iii) As a part of the diversification strategy of fuel use and a measure for pollution abatement strategy, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has set up an Expert Group for use of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) as an automotive fuel and to examine:

— Infrastructure, Logistics and distribution.

— Technology, equipment design, retrofitting/equipment standardisation, fuel specification characteristics, etc.

Illegal trade in Shahtoosh

4154. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appear-

ing in the Asian Age dated June 7, 1998, under the heading "Wildlife Act fails to curb trade in Shahtoosh".

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of incidents of illegal trade in Shahtoosh, which have been detected during the last three years; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to curb this trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of cases of illegal trade in shahtoosh, detected by the Regional offices of wildlife preservation, under this Ministry, during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of cases	No. of Shawls seized
1995-96	1	172
1996-97	3	20
1997-98	2	4 + wool

(c) The steps taken by the Government to prevent the illegal trade in shahtoosh are as follows:

(i) Hunting of wild animals covered under Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by law. Tibetan antelope from which shahtoosh is derived is included in Schedule I of the Act.

(ii) This Ministry has set up a National Co-ordination Committee consisting of representatives of all major enforcement organisations such as customs, Revenue intelligence, CBI, Police, BSF, ITBP, RPF and foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental co-operation and co-ordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

(iii) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wild-

life and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for various enforcement agencies.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, in co-operation with other enforcement agencies, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.

(v) India is a signatory of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.

(vi) Rewards are given to informers for gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mainly at the major export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

राष्ट्रीय वानिकी नीति के अन्तर्गत वृक्षारोपण

4155. श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के 12 पर्वतीय जिलों में विगत तीन वर्षों में राष्ट्रीय वानिकी नीति के अन्तर्गत कितने हेक्टेयर भूमि में वृक्षारोपण किया गया है;

(ख) इस नीति के अन्तर्गत ईंधन और चारा प्राप्त करने के लिए कौन-कौन से वृक्ष लगाए जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या रुस्क पेड़ों (चीड़ और यूके-लिरस) के स्थान पर चौड़ी पत्ती के छायादार पेड़ों को लगाने का विचार है; और

(घ) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान रोपित वृक्षों के अनुपात में जीवित वृक्षों का अनुपात क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल शर्मा): (क) राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रधान की गई सूचना के अनुसार इन जिलों में पिछले तीन सालों में 50, 776 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में वृक्षारोपण किया गया है।

(ख) जो वृक्ष प्रजातियाँ लगाई जाती हैं वे हैं:— बाँज, बाटल, रजत बाँज, पातली, बबरेल, खरीक, भीमल, सैडन, पदम, मेहल, चीड़, सुर्दा, बकाइन, गरुड, युक्लिप्टस। इनसे ईंधन लकड़ी और/अथवा चारा प्राप्त होता है।

(ग) स्थान की परिस्थितियों के अनुसार प्रजातियों का चयन किया जाता है। चीड़ के पेड़ मिट्टी की बहुत कम गहराई वाले सूखे स्थानों पर लगाए जाते हैं, जहाँ चौड़े पत्तों वाली प्रजातियों को लगाना सफल नहीं होता है। जिस क्षेत्र में युक्लिप्टस के पेड़ लगाए गये हैं उसका आगे विस्तार नहीं किया जा रहा है।

(घ) राज्य सरकार की सूचना के अनुसार पिछले तीन सालों के दौरान लगाए गए वृक्षों की औसत जीवितता प्रतिशतता लगभग 65 प्रतिशत है।

Losses due to forest fires

4156. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of forest fires that took place during the last two years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total loss of property, trees and wild animals by these fires in each case; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Task force on environmental pollution

4157. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any special task force consisting of young and qualified scientists to interact with major industrial establishments in the country and to assist them in controlling the evergrowing menace of environmental pollution on land, sea and air: